

A NEW SPECIES OF OXYOPID SPIDER FROM INDIA¹G.L. SADANA AND AARTI GUPTA²

(With seven text-figures)

A new species of spider, *Oxyopes gurjanti* sp. nov. of the family Oxyopidae is described and illustrated, and *O. ratnae* Tikader has been recorded for the first time from northern India.

Spiders of the genus *Oxyopes* Latreille of the family Oxyopidae are little known from the Indian region. Pocock (1901) was the first to report some species of this genus but his descriptions lacked details and illustrations. Sherriffs (1951) redescribed Pocock's specimens with illustrations. Later, Tikader (1965, 1969) and Tikader and Biswas (1981) made further additions to the Oxyopid fauna of India.

While examining the collection made during the survey of spiders predaceous on insect pests of deciduous orchards, we came across two species of *Oxyopes*, one of which is new and is described here as *O. gurjanti* and the other *O. ratnae* Tikader (1970) is already known from eastern India and collected for the first time from northern India is being reported. With the addition of the new species to the already known *Oxyopes* fauna, the total number now known from India stands at eighteen.

The type specimens will, in due course, be deposited in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

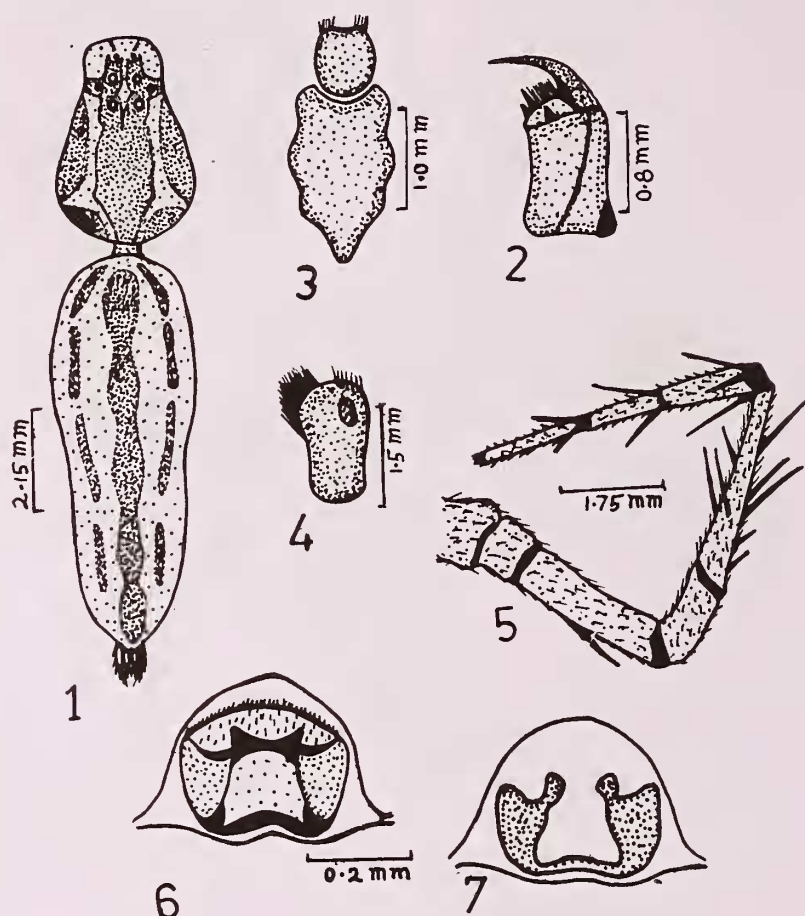
All the measurements given in the description of species are in mm.

Abbreviations are: AM, anterior median, AL, anterior lateral, PM, posterior median and PL, posterior lateral eyes.

***Oxyopes gurjanti* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-7)

Cephalothorax: female carapace length 4.02, broadest width 3.85; ground colour greyish yellow with a dark median band extending up to the eye



Figs. 1-7. *Oxyopes gurjanti* sp. nov.: 1. Dorsal view of female (legs omitted); 2. Inner view of chelicera; 3. Ventral view of labium and sternum; 4. Inner view of maxillary lobe; 5. First leg; 6. Ventral view of epigynum; 7. Internal genitalia.

group, flanked on either side by a similarly coloured band (Fig. 1). Cephalic region narrower and higher than thoracic region; thoracic region almost circular, thoracic fovea distinct and longitudinal. *Eyes*: pearly white, surrounded by black rims, arranged in a hexagonal manner because of strongly recurved anterior row and strongly procured posterior row (Fig. 1). *Diameter of eyes*: AM= 0.14, AL= 0.23, PM= 0.23, PL= 0.23. *Distance between eyes*: AM-AM= 0.32, AL-AL=0.97, AM-AL=0.52, PM-PM=0.95, PL-PL= 1.25, PM-PL = 0.46, AM-PM= 1.08, AL-PL = 0.45. *Clypeus*: width 0.52, yellow, marked with two dark streaks extending up to the

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anterior median eyes and chelicerae. *Chelicera*: length 1.05, width 0.82, yellow, anterior face marked with a dark streak that merges with the clypeal streak, promargin of cheliceral furrow with two teeth, the first tooth being the largest, retromargin with a single tooth (Fig. 2), lateral condyle distinct (Fig. 2). *Labium*: length 0.68, width 0.49, yellowish brown, longer than broad (Fig. 3) extending up to more than half the length of maxillary lobes, anterior end slightly notched and beset with a few hairs. *Maxillary lobes*: length 0.89, width 0.56, yellow with a brown patch anteriorly, almost cylindrical, beset with a few hair antero-laterally (Fig. 4). *Sternum*: length 1.75, width 1.21, yellow, broader anteriorly and pointed posteriorly, significantly longer than wide (Fig. 3), sternal cones distinct. *Legs*: yellow, strong and spinose, spines standing out at a considerable angle (Fig. 5 for I), tarsal claws three. *Length of legs*: I-14.72, II-12.78, III-11.21 and IV-12.93.

Abdomen: length 8.69, broadest width 3.29, broader and rounded anteriorly, narrow and tapering posteriorly; dorsum greyish yellow with a median, reddish brown band flanked with similarly coloured oblique patches (Fig. 1). Venter pale yellow with a dark median band interrupted by yellowish spots and white mottling. Posterior spinnerets longer than anterior ones. Anal tubercle long and conical. Epigynum and internal genitalia as in Figs. 6 and 7. *Total length*: female, 12.71.

Type-data: *Holotype* female, *Paratypes* 3 females in spirit, male unknown. *Type locality*: pear

orchard, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, 19.XI.1992, coll. Aarti and 29.IX.1993, coll. Gurjant.

Distribution: Known from type-locality.

Etymology: The new species is named after the collector.

Remarks: This species resembles slightly *O. pandae* Tikader but can be distinguished from it by large sized PL eyes, absence of spines in ocular quad and bands on the ventral side of femura and dark bands on the venter of abdomen being interrupted by yellow spots and white mottling. The structure of epigynum and internal genitalia is also different.

***Oxyopes ratnae* Tikader**

Oxyopes ratnae Tikader, 1970, *Rec. zool Surv. India*. 64: 70.

Material examined: 1 female, 2 males ex peach (*Prunus persica*), 9.XI.1992; 1 female, 1 male ex ber (*Zizyphus jujuba*), 11.I.1993, new orchard, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, coll. Aarti.

Distribution: INDIA: Sikkim, Calcutta, West Bengal, and Ludhiana, Punjab.

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